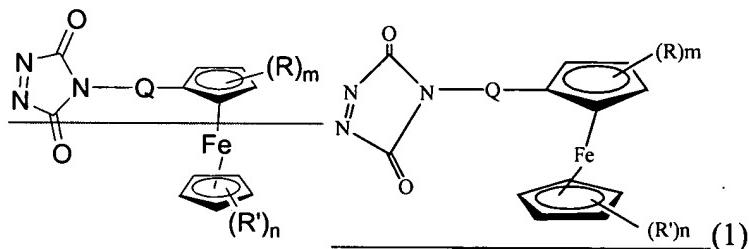


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ferrocene compound represented by formula (1) below:



wherein Q represents a direct bond, alkylene or -W₁-X-W₂- (wherein W₁ represents alkylene or phenylene; W₂ represents alkylene; X represents -O-, -N(R_a)C(=O)-, -N(R_a)C(=O)NH-, -OC(=O)NH- or -N(R_a)OS(=O)-; and R_a represents a lower alkyl group); each of R and R' independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, nitro group, cyano group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group, optionally substituted lower acyl group, optionally substituted carboxy group, or optionally substituted carbamoyl group; m represents an integer of 1 to 3; and n represents an integer of 1 to 4.

Claim 2 (original): The ferrocene compound according to claim 1, wherein R and R' are a hydrogen atom.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ferrocene compound according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein Q represents a direct bond or alkylene.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ferrocene compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein Q is methylene.

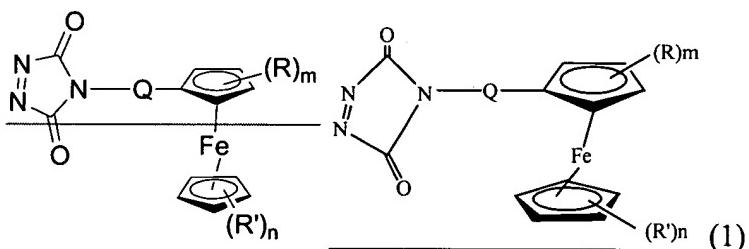
Claim 5 (currently amended): The ferrocene compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein Q is a direct bond.

Claim 6 (original): The ferrocene compound according to claim 1, which is 4-(ferrocenylmethyl)-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione or 4-ferrocenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione.

Claim 7 (original): A reagent for measuring a triene structure, comprising the ferrocene compound according to claim 1.

Claim 8 (original): The reagent according to claim 7, which further comprises a solvent capable of dissolving the ferrocene compound.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A combined compound of a ferrocene compound represented by formula (1) below, and a vitamin D compound:

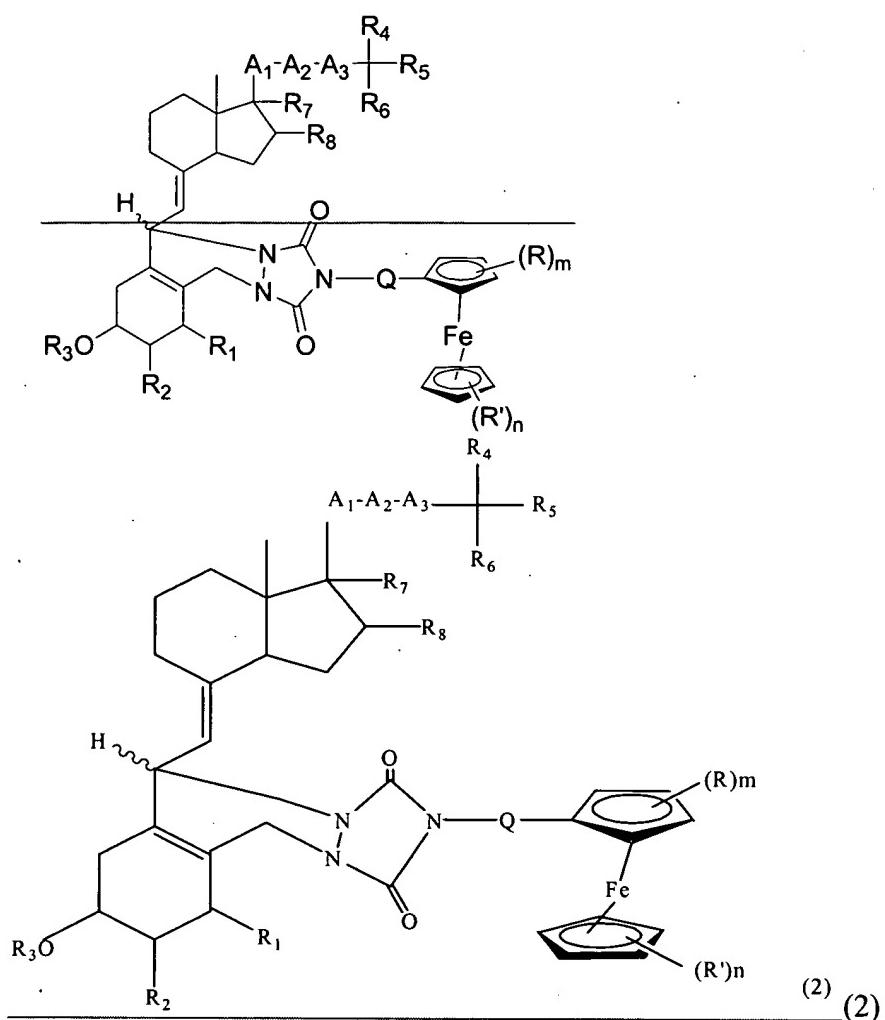


wherein Q represents a direct bond, alkylene or -W₁-X-W₂- (wherein W₁ represents alkylene or phenylene; W₂ represents alkylene; X represents -O-, -N(R_a)C(=O)-, -N(R_a)C(=O)NH-, -OC(=O)NH- or -N(R_a)OS(=O)-; and R_a represents a lower alkyl group); each of R and R' independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, nitro group, cyano group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group, optionally substituted

lower acyl group, optionally substituted carboxy group, or optionally substituted carbamoyl group; m represents an integer of 1 to 3; and n represents an integer of 1 to 4.

Claim 10 (original): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound is a combined compound wherein the ferrocene compound and the vitamin D compound have been combined with each other through a covalent bond.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound is a compound represented by formula (2):



wherein each of A₁ and A₃ independently represents optionally substituted lower alkylene, optionally substituted lower alkenylene, or optionally substituted lower alkynylene; A₂ represents a direct bond, -CH=CH-, -C=C-, -O-, -S- or -NH-; R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or -OR₉ (R₉ represents a hydrogen atom or protecting group); R₂ represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group or optionally substituted lower acyl group; R₃ represents a hydrogen atom or protecting group; each of R₄, R₅ and R₆ independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, nitro group, cyano group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted cycloalkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted

lower alkoxy group, optionally substituted lower acyl group, optionally substituted carboxy group, optionally substituted carbamoyl group or optionally substituted amino group; each of R₇ and R₈ independently represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy group, or, R₇ and R₈ are linked together to form a double bond; Q represents a direct bond, alkylene or -W₁-X-W₂- (wherein W₁ represents alkylene or phenylene; W₂ represents alkylene; X represents -O-, -N(R_a)C(=O)-, -N(R_a)C(=O)NH-, -OC(=O)NH- or -N(R_a)OS(=O)-, and R_a represents a lower alkyl group); each of R and R' independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, nitro group, cyano group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group, optionally substituted lower acyl group, optionally substituted carboxy group or optionally substituted carbamoyl group; m represents an integer of 1 to 3; and n represents an integer of 1 to 4.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The compound according to claim 9, 10 or 11, wherein A₁-A₂-A₃ represents -CH(CH₃)-(CH₂)₃-, -CH(CH₃)-CH=CH- or -CH(CH₃)-CH=CH-CH=CH-; R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy group; R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxypropoxy group; R₃ is a hydrogen atom; each of R₄, R₅ and R₆ independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, lower alkyl group which may optionally be substituted with halogen, or lower cycloalkyl group which may optionally be substituted with halogen; R₇ and R₈ are a hydrogen atom, or, R₇ and R₈ are linked together to form a double bond.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The compound according to ~~any one of claims 9 through 12~~claim 9, wherein R and R' are a hydrogen atom.

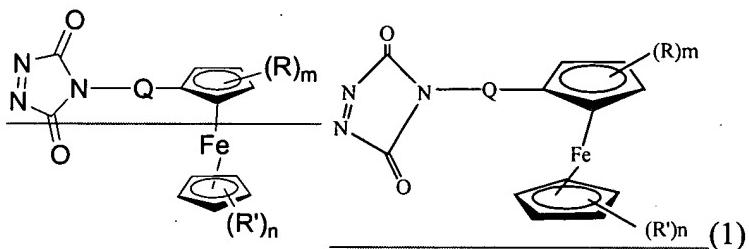
Claim 14 (currently amended): The compound according to ~~any one of claims 9 through 13~~claim 9, wherein Q represents a direct bond or alkylene.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The compound according to ~~any one of claims 9 through 13~~claim 9, wherein Q is methylene.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The compound according to ~~any one of claims 9 through 13~~ claim 9, wherein Q is a direct bond.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The compound according to ~~any one of claims 9 through 16~~ claim 9, wherein the vitamin D compound is a vitamin D₃ compound.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of measuring a vitamin D compound contained in a sample, which comprises reacting a ferrocene compound represented by formula (1) below:



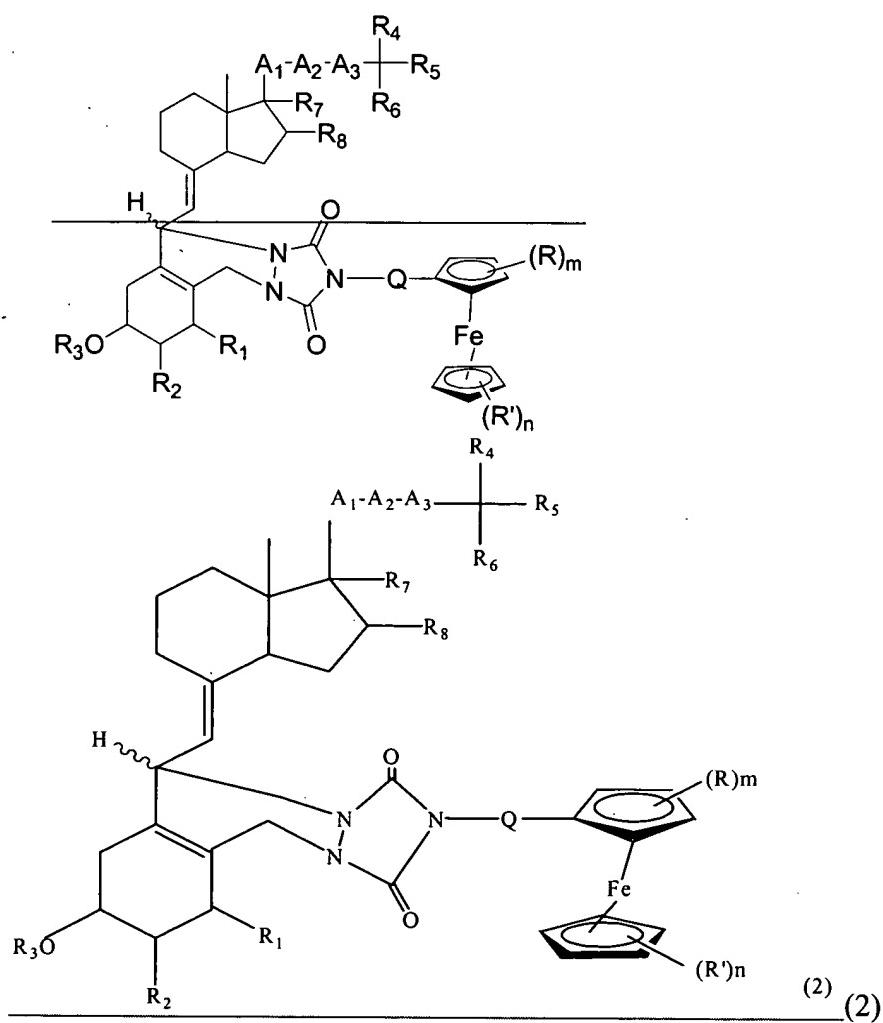
wherein Q represents a direct bond, alkylene or -W₁-X-W₂- (wherein W₁ represents alkylene or phenylene; W₂ represents alkylene; X represents -O-, -N(R_a)C(=O)-, -N(R_a)C(=O)NH-, -OC(=O)NH- or -N(R_a)OS(=O)-; and R_a represents a lower alkyl group); each of R and R' independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, nitro group, cyano group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group, optionally substituted lower acyl group, optionally substituted carboxy group, or optionally substituted carbamoyl group; m represents an integer of 1 to 3; and n represents an integer of 1 to 4,

with a vitamin D compound, and measuring the resulting combined compound of the ferrocene compound and the vitamin D compound by liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC/MS).

Claim 19 (original): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to claim 18, wherein the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound is a

combined compound wherein the ferrocene compound and the vitamin D compound have been combined with each other through a covalent bond.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to claim 18, wherein the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound is a compound represented by formula (2) below:



wherein each of A_1 and A_3 independently represents optionally substituted lower alkylene, optionally substituted lower alkenylene, or optionally substituted lower alkynylene; A_2 represents a direct bond, $-CH=CH-$, $-C=C-$, $-O-$, $-S-$ or $-NH-$; R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or $-OR_9$ (R_9

represents a hydrogen atom or protecting group); R₂ represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group or optionally substituted lower acyl group; R₃ represents a hydrogen atom or protecting group; each of R₄, R₅ and R₆ independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, nitro group, cyano group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted cycloalkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group, optionally substituted lower acyl group, optionally substituted carboxy group, optionally substituted carbamoyl group or optionally substituted amino group; each of R₇ and R₈ independently represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy group, or, R₇ and R₈ are linked together to form a double bond; Q represents a direct bond, alkylene or -W₁-X-W₂- (wherein W₁ represents alkylene or phenylene; W₂ represents alkylene; X represents -O-, -N(R_a)C(=O)-, -N(R_a)C(=O)NH-, -OC(=O)NH- or -N(R_a)OS(=O)-, and R_a represents a lower alkyl group); each of R and R' independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, nitro group, cyano group, halogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkenyl group, optionally substituted lower alkynyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxy group, optionally substituted lower acyl group, optionally substituted carboxy group or optionally substituted carbamoyl group; m represents an integer of 1 to 3; and n represents an integer of 1 to 4.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to claim 18, ~~19 or 20~~, wherein, in the ferrocene compound and the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound, A₁-A₂-A₃ represents -CH(CH₃)-(CH₂)₃-, -CH(CH₃)-CH=CH- or -CH(CH₃)-CH=CH-CH=CH-; R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy group; R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxypropoxy group; R₃ is a hydrogen atom; each of R₄, R₅ and R₆ independently represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy group, lower alkyl group which may optionally be substituted with a halogen, or a lower cycloalkyl group which may optionally be substituted with a halogen; R₇ and R₈ are a hydrogen atom, or, R₇ and R₈ are linked together to form a double bond.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to ~~any one of claims 18 through 21~~claim 18, wherein, in the ferrocene compound and the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound, R and R' are a hydrogen atom.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to ~~any one of claims 18 through 22~~claim 18, wherein, in the ferrocene compound and the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound, Q represents a direct bond or alkylene.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to ~~any one of claims 18 through 22~~claim 18, wherein, in the ferrocene compound and the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound, Q is methylene.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to ~~any one of claims 18 through 22~~claim 18, wherein, in the ferrocene compound and the combined compound of the ferrocene compound and a vitamin D compound, Q is a direct bond.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to ~~any one of claims 18 through 25~~claim 18, wherein the vitamin D compound in a sample is a vitamin D₃ compound.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to ~~any one of claims 18 through 26~~claim 18, wherein the sample is taken from a living body.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method of measuring a vitamin D compound according to ~~any one of claims 18 through 27~~claim 18, wherein the liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC/MS) is liquid chromatography/electrospray ionization-mass spectrometry/mass spectrometry (LC/ESI-MS/MS).